



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

20 ✓

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/409,594	09/30/1999	RONALD W. BASSETT	AT9-99-254	5602

35525 7590 05/08/2006

IBM CORP (YA)
C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC
P.O. BOX 802333
DALLAS, TX 75380

EXAMINER

SALCE, JASON P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2623

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on 4/9/04, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new grounds of rejection set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

After further consideration, the examiner has found that the omitting limitations in conjunction with the remaining limitations of the claims, are not supported by the specification and a 112 1st Paragraph is presented below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to

Art Unit: 2623

one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Regarding the independent claims, the claims recite, "*altering ones of the selected video streams and ones of the selected audio streams for the event, wherein the altering step selectively omits content of at least one of the selected streams while retaining other content for presentation to produce an altered stream*". The examiner notes that the only section in the Applicant's specification of the instant application that discusses altering by omitting content from the video or audio streams can be found on Page 12, Lines 27-29, which states, "*Depending on the user input, some portions of the video and audio data streams may be presented while others are omitted*". The claim then recites the limitation, "*presenting the selected and altered streams concurrently*", which is supported on Page 22, Line 32 through Page 23, Line 11 of the instant application's specification.

The entire process of Figure 8, which is discussed further on Pages 21-23 of the instant application's specification, states nothing about omitting content from the streams. Instead, the only altering done in the process of Figures 8 to the audio and video streams are completely opposite from omitting content (such as changing the volume of the audio streams or the opacity of the video streams). Therefore, the specification fails to teach how the system would concurrently present selected and altered video and audio streams, where the altered stream(s) are ones that have omitted content while retaining other content for presentation.

Art Unit: 2623

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Regarding the independent claims, the claims recite, "*altering ones of the selected video streams and ones of the selected audio streams for the event, wherein the altering step selectively omits content of at least one of the selected streams while retaining other content for presentation to produce an altered stream*". The examiner notes that the only section in the Applicant's specification of the instant application that discusses altering by omitting content from the video or audio streams can be found on Page 12, Lines 27-29, which states, "*Depending on the user input, some portions of the video and audio data streams may be presented while others are omitted*". The claim then recites the limitation, "*presenting the selected and altered streams concurrently*", which is supported on Page 22, Line 32 through Page 23, Line 11 of the instant application's specification.

Note that since Applicant's system omits portions from the video and audio streams and **presents** the others, then clearly the omitted portions of the video and audio streams are **not displayed**; therefore the system is not be capable of displaying both the **omitted** and **selected** portions concurrently.

Furthermore, the specification states on Page 22, Line 32 through Page 23, Line 3 that "*Once the media streams are selected and configured the audio and video*

streams are synchronized to each other". Clearly the audio and video streams are both selected and configured before concurrent display, therefore since the audio and video streams are both selected **and** configured before synchronous display, the system is not be capable of displaying both the **omitted** and **selected** portions concurrently.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason P Salce
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2623

April 25, 2006


JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600